

# THE PICK & SHOVEL



MARCH 1985

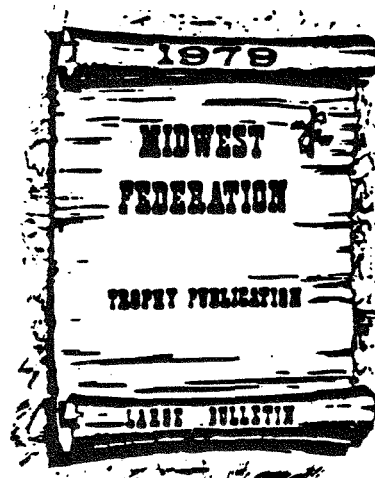
## In this issue

Opal Mining in Australia

Nebraska's Wild River

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Shop tips & More



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

P. O. Box 5342

Lincoln, Nebraska 68505

LINCOLN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.  
P.O. BOX 5342, Lincoln, NE. 68505-0342

The purpose of this corporation shall be to study, promote an interest in, and disseminate knowledge of lapidary and various earth sciences including but not necessarily limited to geology, paleontology, and mineralogy. It shall be a particular purpose of the corporation to provide education in these fields to its members and the general public, particularly youth and student groups.

MEMBER: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)  
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies (MWF)  
Nebraska Association of Earth Science Clubs, Inc. (NAOESCI)  
Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS) (Life membership)  
Community Arts Council of Lincoln (CAC)

Regular Meetings: 4th Saturday of the month, September thru May: 7:30 P.M.  
At Nebraska Center, 33rd & Holdrege

1985 ELECTED OFFICERS:

President .....	Claude Scott	4917 Normal Blvd.	Lincoln, 68506	488-0739
1st Vice Pres....	Roger Pabian	315 'D' St.	Lincoln, 68502	474-2034
2nd Vice Pres....	Linda Parks	2435 S. 19th St.	Lincoln, 68502	476-6798
Secretary.....	Vera Lyman	420 N. 56th St.	Lincoln, 68504	464-6089
Treasurer.....	Phyllis Parks	2435 S. 19th St.	Lincoln, 68502	476-6798
Board Member....	Mark Mercier	3316 'R' St.	Lincoln, 68502	476-6242
Board Member....	Jim Stewart	1339 Eastridge Dr.	Lincoln, 68510	489-2867
Board Member....	Marie Taylor	910 New Hampshire	Lincoln, 68508	476-3707
Board Member....	Janet Wright	3715 S. 33rd St.	Lincoln, 68508	488-1884

NOMINATING COMMITTEE -- 3 years: Vera Lyman, John Lewis  
2 years: Jim Parks, Ervin Marshall  
1 year: Richard Haney, Wilfrid Wittmann  
Jim Taylor, Chairman

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND BY LAWS COMMITTEE:

1 year - Marie Taylor, Vera Lyman      3 years - Jim Taylor, Irl Everett  
2 years - John Abel, Roger Pabian      Jim Taylor, Chairman

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE:

Calling.....	Phyllis Parks	Membership.....	Linda Parks
	Marie Wells	MWF Liaison.....	Marie Taylor
Education/Publicity...	Roger Pabian	Programs.....	Bob & Mary Walker
Historian.....	John & Lillie Lewis	Scholarships.....	Marie Taylor
Hospitality.....	Susan Taylor	1985 Rockhound/yr...	Roger Pabian
Housing/Property.....	Claude Scott	1985 Annual Show....	Vera Lyman
Junior Activities.....	Janet Wright	1986 Annual Show....	Fred Holbert
Librarian.....	Jim Parks	Christmas Party....	Marie Taylor

AUDITING COMMITTEE 1984.....John Abel, Ervin Marshall  
Virginia Green, Phyllis Parks, Treas.

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF:

Editor.....David Heffelbower 1819 Washington, Lincoln, NE 68502  
Asst. Editor....Vera Lyman 420 N. 56th St. Lincoln, NE 68504 (NAOESCI)  
Sunshine Corner..Susan Taylor  
Reporters.....Julius Young, "CLUB MEMBERS"

DEADLINE: 1st of Month of Issue. Original articles may be reprinted if credit is given the author and THE PICK & SHOVEL and a copy of the publication is sent to the Editor.

## Calendar of Events

GENERAL MEETING: Nebraska Center, 33d & Holdrege  
7:30 P.M. March 23, 1985

JUNIOR MEETING: 7:00 P.M. Same Location

BOARD MEETING: Nebraska Hall, Room 115  
UNL Campus, 17th & W Sts.  
7.30 P.M. (This location may change;  
check with Claude Scott)  
Thursday, April 4, 1985

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MARCH 16th & 17th: LG & MC Annual show  
Agricultural Hall  
State Fairgrounds, Lincoln, NE

APRIL 26-28: Hastings Gem & Mineral Club  
Annual Show, Hastings, NE

MAY 4th & 5th: STATE SWAP  
Hosted by 100th Meridian Club  
Lexington, NE Fairgrounds

## Regional Show Schedule    1985

CALIFORNIA	EASTERN	MIDWEST	NORTHWEST	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	SOUTH CENTRAL
Ventura	Charleston	Sioux Falls	Burley	Denver	Wichita Falls
California	W. Virginia	South Dakota	Idaho	Colorado	Texas
July 26-28	June 20-23	July 18-21	August 2-4	Sep. 13-15	April 5-7



May the road rise to meet you-

May the wind be always at your back-

May the sun shine warm upon your face-

May the rains fall soft upon your fields-

and until we meet again-- May the Lord

hold you in the palm of his hand.

-An Irish Blessing

This is the month to "Think Green" - green grass, new growth in the flower beds and on trees-even moss!

Get well cards have been sent to Frank Rule and J. D. YOUNG. Grandparent congratulations were sent to the Scott's.

Suze Sunshine

## President's Message

As I write this, it is doubtful if the March issue of the Pick and Shovel will reach the members before the annual show. With all the planning and organizing that has been done, I am sure that the 1985 Spring show will be a very good one. We are all "thinking positive" that the weather man will cooperate 100%.

I hope that all members are thinking ahead toward the regular March meeting and plan to attend. It will be held the 23rd. We will have a show report and a good program.

See all of you on the 23rd.

*Claude*

\* \* \* \* \*

A BILL TO RESTRICT LAPIDARISTS: A bill has been introduced in Congress (H.R. 1703) which, if enacted into law, would prohibit hobbyists from cutting cabochons and faceting stones and selling them to jewelers. According to Brian Conger of the Rochester, New York Lapidary Society, "the dealers at your local rock and gem shows will be affected by this and the viability of the gem and mineral shows themselves will be also". He urges club members to write letters to their congressmen to vote against the bill.

From THE PICK & CHISEL Via THE  
AGATIZER & T-TOWN ROCKHOUND

I don;t know anything about this but it would be wise to check it out.- The editor



# ... JUNIORS

## A Field Trip To Grandpa's Basement

It all started one Saturday morning. I had been trying to think of an exhibit for the show, when my dad suggested I do an identification exhibit. I liked the idea, but I needed more specimens in order to do it. My search took me to my grandpa's house. He took me into the basement to find what I needed. I hadn't been down there often, and the "DANGER! HARD HAT AREA" sign still scared me. He took me to the section of the basement where he keeps the rocks. Then I told him what I needed and he went to the shelves and started pulling out boxes of rocks until he found the one he was looking for. After looking through the box for a few seconds, he started telling me what all of them were and where he had found them. It was a lot of fun going on a field trip to Grandpa's basement.

Anne Crawford.

TOP SECRET ASSIGNMENT Code name: GGM (Green Gems & Minerals).

- I) Unscramble the letters to find name of rock.
- II) Fill in blanks and boxes with rock name.
- III) Unscramble letters in boxes to find out what March 17th is.

\_\_\_ □ \_\_\_ □

R A P Y S C O H R E S

\_\_\_ □ \_\_\_

I C T V E A R S I

\_\_\_ □ \_\_\_

D E J A

\_\_\_ □ \_\_\_ □

L H I A M A C T E

\_\_\_ □

R E M L A D E

□ \_\_\_ □

T P O D I R E

Box letters: □ □ . □ □ □ ' □ □ □ □

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Feb. 7, 1985

The Meeting was called to order by President Claude Scott on Feb. 7, 1985, 7:30 P.M. at Love Library South-Auditorium. Nine Board members, Bob Walker and David Heffelbower were present.

Minutes of the January meeting were read. Motion for approval by Jim Stewart, 2nd by Janet Wright. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was read. Motion for approval by Roger Pabian, 2nd by Linda Parks. Motion carried.

CLUB BILLS: Paid but presented for approval:

\$ 20.00 Vera Lyman - Anniversary Cake for Jan. Meeting  
100.00 UN Foundation Scholarship Fund (Memorial for Todd A.)  
300.00 UN Foundation Scholarship - Deposit for '86 Scholarships  
20.00 Sec. of State, Alan Beerman - Non-profit fee for 2 yrs.  
50.00 NAOESCI - Member subscriptions to Gem Palette

For approval and payment:

35.31 Accent Printing - 500 Sheets/envelopes Club Stationery  
Motion for approval by Linda Parks, 2nd by Marie Taylor. Motion carried.

SHOW BILLS: For approval and payment:

\$ 77.64 Accent Printing - Show Flyers -  $1000/8\frac{1}{2} \times 11 = 53.30$   
 $2000/5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$   
- Green Rock Contest Entry Blanks - 13.32  
- Raffle Tickets - 11.02  
30.20 Marie Taylor - Plastic name cases/100 - 12.02  
Certificates of Appreciation - 18.18

Paid but presented for approval:

20.00 Roger Pabian - Stamps to mail Show Flyers  
Motion for approval by Roger Pabian, 2nd by Janet Wright. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

President had called several places regarding storage of Club properties.

1520 Knox - 10x20 - \$ 33.00  
46 & Vine - 5x10 - 22.00  
5350 Cornhusker - 10x10 - 44.00

Discussion followed. Jim Stewart offered use of his garage. Motion by Vera Lyman that we accept Jim Stewart's offer to use his garage on a month to month basis for \$ 25.00 a month until a storage unit becomes available at 1520 Knox (property of Wilfrid Wittmann) 2nd by Janet Wright. Motion carried.

Proposed Budget:

Suggested by Phyllis that it should include Jr. Budget - \$ 50.00  
Motion by Phyllis Parks, 2nd by Marie Taylor that we include \$ 50.00 in budget for Juniors. Motion carried.

Approximately \$ 300.00 included in budget for property storage.  
Motion for approval of entire budget by Jim Stewart. 2nd by Janet Wright. Motion carried.

Board of Directors - Feb. 7, 1985 - continued

Copies of entire budget to be presented to membership at General Meeting on Feb. 23rd.

Appointment of Resident Agent to be postponed until April Board Meeting when Lois Everett is back in town. (Lois has been Resident Agent up to the present time)

Motion by Phyllis Parks, 2nd by Roger Pabian, that delinquency date for membership be extended to Feb. 28th for this year only, due to lack of Dec. Pick & Shovel and late issue in Jan. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

First National Certificate of Deposit matures on 3-6-85.  
#173309

Motion by Phyllis Parks that we reinvest initial \$ 15,000. at best rate - interest to be paid to Club for deposit in Transmatic or NBC Savings or both.

The balance of monies (accrued interest on 3-6-85) used to set up best savings at NBC where we have checking account, so funds can be transferred to checking as necessary to maintain expenses and commitments of Club. 2nd by Vera Lyman. Motion carried.

Phyllis Parks to purchase roll of 22¢ stamps for Club Officers use.

Linda Parks brought up question of Club affiliation with Friends of Museum. To be discussed at General Meeting.

CHANGES AT PRINT SHOP: re: PICK & SHOVEL

They will require more lead time, at least 10 working days. PRICES: 250 copies - \$ 6.50 Free collating  
covers - 6.75

ALL MATERIALS MUST BE TO DAVE AT THE GENERAL MEETING AND THE PICK & SHOVEL READY FOR THE PRINTERS BY THE 1st OF EACH MONTH.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Scholarship recipients which will be awarded at our '85 Show were chosen from the following list:

Richard Ehrman	John Fulton	Robert Kalinski	Bruce Wood
Alex Fisher	Ann Guhman	Nene Sow	Janet Wright

The two chosen were Richard Ehrman and Nene Sow.

Stipulations of the UNL Foundation are that they must be graduate students at UNL in final stages working on their thesis.

Two were also chosen from Club to receive scholarships from Club Education/Scholarship Fund. They were Lee Pivonka and Janet Wright.

Motion was made by Vera Lyman that Richard Ehrman and Nene Sow be recipients of \$ 150.00 each from UN Foundation Scholarship. 2nd by Jim Stewart. Motion carried.

Board of Directors - Feb. 7, 1985 - continued

A second motion was made by Vera Lyman that Lee Pivonka and Janet Wright be recipients of \$ 200.00 each from Club Education/Scholarship Fund. 2nd by Jim Stewart. Motion carried.

All 4 of the Scholarships will be presented to recipients at the 1985 Annual Show Saturday Night Supper by Marie Taylor, Scholarship Chairman. She will notify Dr. Treves of our choices and make the necessary arrangements.

Motion was made by Phyllis Parks that we maintain the Club Education/Scholarship Fund as set up in 1977. 2nd by Vera Lyman. Motion carried.

Motion by Phyllis Parks that the \$ 17.20 received from magazine sales at January Swap go to Junior Fund. 2nd by Roger Pabian. Motion carried.

Motion by Vera Lyman that the \$ 11.17 surcharge on Swapper Bucks and the \$ 27.90 from Silent Auction at January Swap be put into Club Education/Scholarship Fund. 2nd by Roger Pabian. Motion carried.

Show Chairman will be calling committee for another meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Vera Lyman*  
Vera Lyman, Secretary

LGMC Treasurer's Report, Feb. 28, 1985

NBC Checking Feb. 1, 1985 589.68

February Receipts-	1985 Membership Dues	70.00	
	1985 Show Dealer Space	300.00	
	Overpayment 1985 Dues	2.00	
	1984 P&S Advertising	45.00	417.00
February Payments-	Stamps-mail show flyers	20.00	
	Secy.State Corp.Fee	20.00	
	NAOESCI-Gem Palette	50.00	
	Accent Printing	108.99	
	'85 Show Expense	60.86	
	'85 Show Spec.Feature	250.00	
	Jan. Swap & Meeting	149.30	659.15

NBC Checking Feb. 28, 1985 347.53

78 Paid Members, 6 Life Members, 6 Juniors

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB - General Minutes - Feb. 23, 1985

The Meeting was called to order by 1st Vice, Roger Pabian in the absence of Claude Scott, who was in Colorado visiting his new Granddaughter. The meeting was held in the Fremont Room at the NE Center.

Motion for approval of the minutes of the January meeting as printed in the Pick & Shovel by Jim Taylor, 2nd by Virginia Green. Motion carried.

Motion for approval of the Treasurer's report as printed by Dave Heffelbower, 2nd by Ed Johnson. Motion carried.

HOSPITALITY REPORT:

Susan Taylor reported 29 Adults, 4 Juniors present. Guests were Susan Kelly and Greg Lyman.

She also announced that Frank Rule had been in and out of the hospital with pneumonia; and J.D. Young was in and out of the hospital with eye surgery. Also, that Claude & Gail Scott are proud new Grandparents. Congratulations!

OPERATING BUDGET FOR '85:

Each member was given a copy of the '85 Operating Budget. During discussion Virginia Green asked why 'Friends of the Museum' was not included in affiliate organizations. However, we do already support the Museum. Motion for Budget approval as printed by Marie Wells, 2nd by Lester Hunt. Motion carried.

At this time, there are 85 Adult, 5 Junior and 6 Life members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Show report was given by Vera Lyman, regarding raffle, etc. Susan Taylor reported on the Sat. night dinner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Roger presented 2 publications to the Club Library. They were also available to club members for \$ 3.11

Linda Parks announced that anyone who had not received their membership cards could pick them up during the Show.

Letter from Ray Lambert stating that he hopes to be back for our Show, and also, as President of Fort Collins Rock Club invites us to their Show.

Meeting adjourned; followed by an excellent program on Agates of Northern Mexico, presented by Roger Pabian.

Respectfully submitted,

*Vera Lyman*  
Vera Lyman, Secretary

## THE KITE CUT

Cutting a kite from stone is a fairly easy thing to do. March is a good month to cover this subject, since many kites will dot the sky. To make the template, simply fold an index card, and with a pair of scissors, make one cut at some angle other than a right angle to the fold---then, do the same such that the second cut intersects the line made by the first. Experiment a bit---a kite shape will be the final result. With additional cuts, you can make six-, eight-, or other multi-sided kites

Carl Wells of Pierson, Iowa, attaches kite-shaped cabochons to a stiff piece of wire and then attaches the wire to a large slab that serves as a base. Vibrations from the floor create the effect that the kite is flying.

How many mineral kites are possible? There is absarokite, aikite, alaskaite, alpha-uzbekite, atamokite, baddeckite, barkevikite, bergamaskite, beta-uzbekite, bjelkite, borickite, brackebuschite, brookite, buchite, buttenbachite, greenockite, clarkeite, commucite, cookeite, cedrickite, charnockite, calciosamarskite, corkite, darapskite, dickite, dietrichite, domeykite, endlichite, esmarkite, flokite, flinkite, franckeite, gieseckite, hancockite, hitchcockite, hussakite, hydrozincite, kaiwekite, kalkowskite, kochite, (Krohnkite, kronkite, and kronnkite, all the same and not related to Walter), kurskite, lanarkite, larvickite, legenbachite, leucite, loranskite, louderbachite, lubeckite, luckite, malachite (a malachite kite started all of this), malinowskite, marjaskite, melanotektite, mioziankite, millosevichite, mohawkite, ninchiquite, mozarkite, mookite, myrmeckite, nantokite, nevyanskite, nordmarkite, ozarkite, perovskite, phenakite, pisekite, pseudobrookite, palygorskite, pseudomalachite, pulaskite, riebeckite, romanechite, rosenbuschite, samarskite, schararzikite, schanjowskite, schabachite, scolecite, shanyavskite, siserskite, sklodowskite, slavikite, szimikite, szomolnokite, tartarkaite, tavistockite, ternovskite, torendrikite, trachyte, trippkeite, tychite, ulrichite, vernadskite, unakite, shattuckite, warwickite, weinschenkite, wilkite, wilkeite, and zeitriskite.

All of the above kites are pronunciation "kites," even though some may end in -cite or chite. Some of the above minerals occur only as very small accessories in rocks and rarely in pieces large enough to cut and polish. Some occur as alterations in other minerals, such as myrmeckite, which occurs in feldspars.

There are probably many other rocks, minerals, and gems with names ending in a pronouncable "kite." The above list is by no means complete. A catalogue of igneous rock names is probably loaded with them.

Display items for the March meeting should include polished flats of any material. Cases will be furnished. Bring your favorite slabs. Discuss any ideas or problems you encountered in polishing them.

Roger Pabian

FULGURITES: Fulgurites are funny little things, but they're really not so little. They are reputed to be as big as haystacks. The largest reported was forty feet long. Unfortunately they have a habit of collapsing, so what we usually find is likely not over an inch in diameter and 3 to 5 inches long. Fulgurites are petrified lightning. When lightning strikes silica sand, usually on open dunes on ridges with good drainage, it goes through the drier surface sand in search of moisture below. Because of the extremely high temperature of lightning (up to 30,000 degrees celsius), it vitrifies the sand it passes through (silica melts at 1710 degrees) forming hollow tubes; glassy on the inside; rough and showing the fused sand on the outside. The resulting mineral is an amorphous form of quartz called lechetalierite which rarely occurs except as fulgurites. There are also rock fulgurites; when lightning strikes mountain rocks leaving a glassy surface on silica rich rock. Mt. Theilson in Oregon and Toluca in Mexico are sites for these while the Michigan shores and Atlantic coast are hunting grounds for the sand variety.

From SLAB & GAB Via THE ROCKYTIER

#### SHOP TIPS

PLUME AGATE: Try this on your good plume agate. Obtain a nice piece of white plume agate and slice it thinner than usual but thick enough to bevel. Then cut slabs of black jasper as thin as possible. Remove all oil from the slabs. Epoxy the jasper to the white plume. Rub slightly to remove all bubbles, and secure with spring clothespins until dry. Mark and cut as you would any cab. The result will surprise you.

From THE BEACHCOMER Via MGAGS

### NEBRASKA'S WILD RIVER

Nearly twenty five centuries ago the ancient Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, wrote "It is not possible to step twice in the same river." He probably was think of the constant flowing of rivers in general, especially wild ones. There are over 50 such streams in the 48 contiguous states, U.S.A. They are protected by the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act", 1968.

Nebraska boasts of the great total length of its own rivers. The Niobrara is the only one in the Wild and Scenic list. Some have been artificially straightened and shortened. These have become wilder, eroding deeper channels, but less apt to overflow. To earn the wild river title a river needs steeper gradient and more rugged ground features than most Nebraska river courses supply.

Our late honorary L.G.M.C. member, poet John G. Neihardt, depicted the wild Niobrara in "The Song of Hugh Glass", as shown in these excerpt lines:

"—fleet-footed through a track of sand,  
The Niobrara races for the morn—  
A gaunt-loined runner.

and

"To where the headlong Niobrara threw  
His speed against the swol'n Missouri's flank  
And hurled him roaring to the further bank—  
A giant staggered by a pigmy's sting."

Though rather calm in some parts of its 486 mile path through northern Nebraska, it is rough in some places. Its length is second only to the continuous length of the North Platte and the Platte. It is only about "one jump" wide where it enters from Wyoming. It drains about 12,600 square miles; its average annual discharge rate into the Missouri is over 1,000,000 acre-feet, slightly more than one fourth the discharge rate of the "mile wide and inch-deep Platte."

Soon after entering Nebraska the Niobrara flows through Capt. James H. Cook's Agate Springs, the "O4 Ranch", famed for its great fossil beds, now a National Monument. Passing through the northern part of the Sand Hills it gains volume and velocity. It becomes more scenic, and teems with plant and animal life, both living and fossil -- a paradise for rockhounds, geologists, canoeists, fishermen and naturalists!

Nebraska was once regarded as part of the "Great American Desert", unproductive, arid and with few natural resources. Now it is known for its plant and animal products, its vast underground water storage, and various industries. Much of the great Ogallala Aquifer lies beneath this state. The Sand Hills are notable absorbers and storage regions for rain and snow. They have some artificially forested areas. The Sand Hills are said to be the largest such area in the Western Hemisphere, unsurpassed for grazing and hay production.

NEBRASKA'S WILD RIVER - continued

Modern irrigation and careful cultivation methods aid the production of a variety of farm crops. Seepage and soil mineral contamination cause some problems. The wild Niobrara has been proposed as a source of irrigation water and power. Opinions differ greatly about the advisability of a project (the O'Neill) involving a dam on the Niobrara, south of a small town, Norden, Nebraska. No final decision seems to have been reached.

Though the project would have some agricultural value, opponents say the gain would not balance the expense, and the damage to the wild and scenic river would be irreversible. That area to be involved is said by naturalists to be one of the most unique in the whole country. Careful and honest thinking is needed in such matters. Opinions usually differ whenever similar projects are proposed.

Myrtle and I traveled through the controversial Niobrara site of the Norden Dam and the O'Neill Project in the summer of 1978 and found the scenery most enjoyable. (see Pick and Shovel, September 1978, pages 11, 12, 13) We have crossed the Niobrara many times since 1923 at different points, and we never tire of it. My first trip was in 1921, before the "rockhound fever" really became "epidemic", and I remember passing through the little hamlet, "Sparks", recently featured in Nebraska real estate news. Its population has not increased in 64 years.

East of Ainsworth and south of Springview is Bone Creek - a rockhound's delight. It empties into Long Pine Creek near its confluence with the Niobrara. Rapid erosion exposes easily-found fossils and a few transported gemstones; new "hot" areas are exposed after heavy rains. We have heard of one "old man of the river" there who made a fair living gathering specimens for sale to museums and rock shops. (One of Long Pine Creek's attractions is Trout fishing.)

National Geographic Society in 1983 published an excellent hard-cover book, America's Wild and Scenic Rivers; and the Niobrara is included among the thirty described of the total 52 protected streams.

Nebraskaland Magazine published a notably attractive 146 page issue for January-February, 1983, Nebraska Rivers, free to regular subscribers. In it, the Niobrara is one of the twenty one Nebraska rivers.

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, "There is no music like a little river's, it quiets a man down like saying his prayers."

- Submitted by J.D. Young

SHOP TIPS

For the best aluminum "pencils", use double pointed knitting needles (not stainless steel) that are used for socks. Sharpen the needles on the grinding wheel, and they will last indefinitely.

From ESCONI Via THE BEACHCOMER

When marking stones, does your aluminum pencil wear down too fast? Try a piece of brass brazing rod sharpened to a point on both ends. Won't wear as fast, leaves a clean mark that will show up on most stones and you can mark closer to the template.

From AMERICAN RIVER GEMS Via  
THE BEACHCOMER

Soft drink cans can be cut very easily and can be used to make templates. If you have some odd shaped mountings as are found sometimes in old jewelry, cut out a piece of the can to the shape of the mounting and use it as a pattern for making your stone. You can also take a heavy piece of masking tape, press it down good into the mounting so it is flush with the edges, then cut it carefully with a razor blade or exacto knife.

From BLACK HILLS PROSPECTOR  
Via EUREKA NEWS

FOR A GOOD POLISH ON OBSIDION: Sanding: In order to get a good finish on obsidion, I have found that it must be sanded DRY. First sand with a 220 grit sanding cloth that has been slightly dulled by first sanding some agate or other material. Second sand on a 320 well worn cloth or 600 dry. This operation is most important in getting a good finish. I have found that I will not start to get a good finished surface until the sanding cloth has accumulated a white coating of obsidion dust. It is this obsidion dust that removes those troublesome scratches. Care and patience will give you a surface ready to polish without further sanding after this operation. Run your sander at 1750 RPM or more for both of these sanding operations.

Polishing: Wash the rock good. Use a leather posishing buff. For a polishing agent I use tin oxide with a small amount of Linde A ( ½ pound of tin oxide to 1 oz of Linde A). Keep the leather damp but not wet and run at about 800 RPM.

When making cabochons, material should be slabbed 3/8 inch thick (or more) and high domed.

From OSAGE HILLS GEMS Via THE LOUP  
SCOOP

How to cut obsidion;

Iridescent; There are two types of iridescent obsidion. In cutting both correctly, the orientation of the color is most important. One type of obsidion is banded and the color lies in the bands. The banded type will have several colors or shades, while the unbanded type will have only one color. Cut the banded material parallel to the bands to get the eye effect. To get the rainbow effect, cut the stone at an angle of approximately 50 degrees across the bands. Most Glass Butte obsidion is banded.

Gold Sheen:

To get the most out of mahogany gold sheen obsidion, saw with the bands, as if they were a stack of plates and you wish to unstack them. Watch for fire spots in gold sheen. It is not plentiful, but opal-like colors do sometimes occur in mahogany gold sheen.

Midnight Lace:

Lace-patterned obsidion should be cut across the surface pattern that you desire to reproduce.

From THE GEODE Via AMERICAN RIVER  
CURRENTS

SAFETY TIP WARNING!

Epoxy resin when burned gives off a gas that causes INSTANT PNEUMONIA. Araldite and other instant glues adhering to metals being soldered, will also give off this gas. So make sure all metal is clean and your bench does not have any glue adhering to it. You will become unconscious, and if no one is there to assist, then you are in trouble.

From ROCK RUSTLER'S NEWS and other  
bulletins

PATRONIZE YOUR ADVERTISING DEALERS

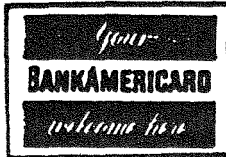
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## J J & L ROCKS & MINERALS

"Supplies for the novice to the discriminating Rock Hound"

(402) 792-2337

Shop at 330 Locust, Hickman, Ne.

Mail order & Free Catalog, Box 68, Hickman, Ne. 68372

Jim Marburger

John Harrison

CUSTOM CUTTING  
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ROUGH  
MINERALS  
SPECIMENS

CABACHONS  
FINDINGS  
SLABS

FINISHED JEWELRY  
SUPPLIES

Read your bulletin to spot *new materials* or *specials* of the above advertisers.

Advertising by a rock-hobby business or interest is permitted with approval of the Board, at a rate now set at \$15.00 per full page per insertion, paid in advance. 1/2 page \$7.50, 1/3 page \$5.00 1/4 page \$3.75 (min). These ads will be placed throughout the bulletin as space permits.

Subscriptions to THE PICK & SHOVEL are \$5.00 per year mailed.

Dues to LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB are as follows:

Adult membership fee \$5.00 (age 16 and over)

Junior membership fee \$1.00 (age 12-16)

Family membership fee \$11.00 (husband, wife and all children under 16 - permanent residents of household)

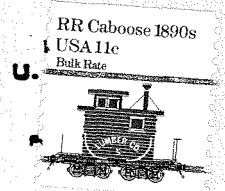
New membership must be approved by the Board, after applicant attends at least one (1) regular meeting of the club, and pay the above dues plus \$1.00 registration fee.



**h.e.l.p.**

HELP ELIMINATE LITTER PLEASE!

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